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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3679**

Serial No.: **10/506,671**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **April 7, 2005**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **5308**

For: **PIPE JOINT**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 4, 2006

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

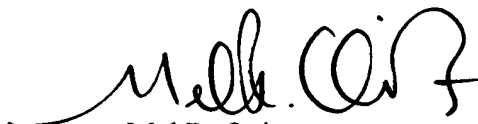
No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



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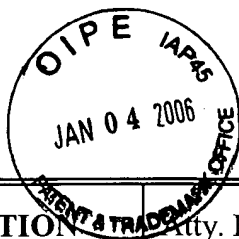
MRQ/lrj  
Atty. Docket No. **040478**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449; References (5); and European Search Report dated 10/20/05.



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No. <b>040478</b>	Serial No. <b>10/506,671</b>
	Applicant(s): <b>SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.</b>	
	Filing Date: <b>April 7, 2005</b>	Group Art Unit: <b>3679</b>

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,829,796	Robinson	11/3/98	285	288.1	
_____	AB						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AC	EP 0 396 151 A	11/07/90	European	No
_____	AD				
_____	AE				

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AF	DE 63 526 C (DIECHMANN) 28 August 1892 (1892-08-28); page 1, left-hand column, paragraph 4, figure 3.				
_____	AG	DE 90 11 772 U1 (KARL RAFELD KG SPRITZGUSSWERK, ELEKTRONIK UND FORMENBAU, 8954 BIESENH), 31 October 1990 (1990-10-31) the whole document.				
_____	AH	GB 745 847 A (J. S. & F. FOLKARD LIMITED) 7 March 1956 (1956-03-07); Page 1, right-hand column, line 62-page 2, left-hand column, line 28, figure.				
_____	AI	European Search Report dated 10/20/05.				
<table><tr><td>Examiner</td><td>Date Considered</td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>			Examiner	Date Considered		
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